



U.S. CONGRESSWOMAN BARBARA LEE

PROUDLY SERVING CALIFORNIA'S 9TH DISTRICT

FALL 2009

LEGISLATIVE HIGHLIGHTS

Below is a partial list of legislation introduced by Congresswoman Lee during this Congress:

- **H.R. 3699** Prohibiting funding for any increase of members of the United States Armed Forces in Afghanistan.
- **H.R.329** Allowing ex-offenders to qualify for food stamps.
- **H.R.334** Appointing a Special Envoy for Iran to encourage diplomatic negotiations.
- **H.R.417** Establishing a professional exchange program to provide technical assistance to Haiti.
- **H.R.653** Supporting research into the causes of childhood brain tumors.
- **H.R.1551** Authorizing grants to States to conduct comprehensive sex education programs.
- **H.R.3154** Expanding federal COPS grants for high crime areas.

UPDATE ON THE ISSUES

The following is a brief update on various issues Congresswoman Barbara Lee is working on:

- Demanding an Exit Strategy for the conflict in Afghanistan.
- Leading efforts to prohibit permanent bases in Iraq and Afghanistan.
- In February she led a Congressional delegation to Cuba to discuss ending the embargo and travel ban.
- Fighting to end the genocide in Darfur through legislation and working with the Obama Administration to continue to pressure Khartoum to comply with the Comprehensive Peace Agreement with Southern Sudan.



Dear Friends:

What a difference a year makes. Since President Barack Obama began working with Congress in January, we have been moving at a feverish pace to address a wide range of issues. Just this year alone we have passed an economic recovery package to help put people back to work, we are working towards enacting legislation to combat climate change, and thankfully, the war in Iraq is winding down.

Now, health care reform is on the horizon. This is a truly historic time in our country. Today, we are closer to achieving comprehensive health care reform than we have been in the past 70 years.

Our healthcare system is in crisis. Over 47 million individuals in America have no health insurance. Of the uninsured, 56 percent are low income, and although people of color make up approximately 34 percent of the population, they comprise over half of the nation's uninsured.

Comprehensive health care reform has never been more urgently needed than right now and we are fighting to make sure it becomes a reality.

While I would have preferred that Congress adopt a single-payer system, we were able to get a strong public option and much needed health equity provisions in the bill.

The bill passed by the House is a good start, but there is still much work to do. A public option is essential to provide affordable coverage to as many uninsured as possible, and coupled with cost containment provisions, it will help to limit increased premiums for the 85 percent of people who currently have health insurance.

In a recent meeting with President Obama I emphasized the importance of retaining the public option in the final bill that comes out of Congress. Additionally, it is important to keep every existing health equity provision intact to ensure that everyone benefits from health reform.

As we move forward in this fight, it is important that you continue to make your voices heard on the issue of health care reform. More than 70 percent of Americans support health care reform with a public option, and we in Congress have a moral obligation to provide them with the affordability, choice and accountability that a public plan would provide.

I am confident that with your help, we can win this fight to provide health care for all.

Barbara Lee
Member of Congress (CA-09)



Congresswoman Barbara Lee speaks during press conference in support of health care reform.

ECONOMIC STIMULUS FUNDING

On February 17, 2009, in the midst of the most severe economic crisis since the Great Depression, Congress passed the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. The Act invests significant funds toward the strategic recovery of our economy and the future success of our country in the 21st century. To date, the 9th Congressional District of California has received over \$411,561,820. Below is a partial list of funds received in the district.

- City of Berkeley – \$1,322,952 for Homelessness Prevention
- Alameda-Contra Costa Transit District – \$25,738,903 for Preventive maintenance and operating funds for ADA Paratransit Services
- Lawrence Berkeley Lab – \$62,000,000 to improve the Department of Energy's scientific computing network
- Albany / Western Regional Research Center - \$25,360,000 for construction and maintenance
- Children's Hospital & Research Center in Oakland – \$1,281,595 for research and capital improvements
- City of Emeryville – \$500,000 for "Brownfield" restoration
- Oakland Office of Human Services – \$895,396 for Head Start
- Oakland Housing Authority – \$10,575,376 for HUD Capitol Funds

CREATING JOBS AND REINVESTING IN AMERICA

The economic policies of the last 8 years have left our nation's economy in shambles. Today, more people are living in poverty, without health insurance, and are unemployed than there were eight years ago.

Though our economy has been hard hit by the recent financial crisis, we are now seeing the beginning signs of a turnaround. The hard work of the Obama Administration and the Democratic Congress in bringing relief to people and investing in our infrastructure, education and workforce has stopped the collapse.

Earlier this year the Congresswoman supported the "American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) which provided necessary resources to hard hit State governments and relief to millions of newly unemployed workers and voted twice to extend unemployment compensation to workers.

The ARRA has helped put our nation on the path to recovery by providing \$4 billion in job training programs – including \$500 million for green jobs and \$1.2 billion for youth training programs which Congresswoman Lee fought to have included. Additionally, it funds a range of

transportation and infrastructure projects to rebuild roads, modernize schools, rehabilitate housing stock and prevent foreclosures. It is truly a sizable commitment to putting our nation back on the right track.

Congresswoman Lee has been working hard to ensure that communities throughout the 9th Congressional District gain access to funding being made available through the ARRA. Throughout the year she has hosted a series of events providing information to organizations on how to secure funding.

Additionally, she hosted an anti-foreclosure tour of our hardest-hit neighborhoods to assess the local impact of the foreclosure crisis and she continues to fight for mandatory guidelines for mortgage modifications to speed up the pace of modifications. She also convened a roundtable with Secretary of Labor Hilda Solis.

Congresswoman Lee remains committed to economically empowering all people by providing pathways out of poverty through new and sustainable jobs.



Congresswoman Barbara Lee and U.S. Department of Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood toured the Fruitvale Transit Village on July 2, 2009. The tour highlighted the work that has been done in the 9th Congressional District to build transit-oriented developments consisting of housing, restaurants and shops along the BART transportation corridor.

SMALL, MINORITY & WOMEN-OWNED BUSINESS

Small, minority and women-owned businesses are a critical component to our economy. They create 60 to 80 percent of new jobs and employ over 50 percent of the nation's workforce. As we seek to weather the current economic storm, we must help small businesses by providing them with the tools they need to grow.

Access to capital has been a recurring challenge for small businesses. While credit markets remain historically tight, the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA)

passed earlier this year is helping improve the flow of capital to small businesses through a number of new and innovative programs. The newly created 'Small Business Stabilization Financing Program,' allows businesses to keep their doors open with a \$35,000 loan, interest free. Since the passage of this legislation, the volume of new SBA-backed loans has risen more than 20 percent since mid-March, with more than \$1.3 billion in new loans approved.

As part of her work on the Appropriations Committee,



Congresswoman Barbara Lee convenes Economic Recovery roundtable in Oakland.

the Congresswoman fought to increase the number of small, women-owned, and minority-owned businesses in the federal contracting process.

In the district, Congresswoman Lee convened a small business fair and a small business workshop to provide

information on ways to access federal contracting opportunities.

Congresswoman Lee remains committed to nurturing the entrepreneurial spirit that has been integral to the success of this country.

LEGISLATIVE HIGHLIGHTS

Below is a partial list of legislation enacted to date by the 111th Congress.

- **Local Law Enforcement Hate Crimes Prevention Act**, makes it a federal crime to assault an individual because of his or her sexual orientation or gender identity.
- **Family Smoking Prevention and Tobacco Control Act**, grants the Food and Drug Administration authority to regulate tobacco products.

- **Credit Card Accountability Responsibility and Disclosure Act**, provides tough new protections for consumers—including banning unfair rate increases, abusive fees, and penalties—and strengthening enforcement.
- **Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act**, restores the rights of women and other workers to challenge unfair pay—to help close the wage gap where women earn 78 cents for every \$1 a man earns.

CONGRESSWOMAN LEE CHAIRS UNITED NATIONS FORUM ON MINORITIES

On November 12-13TH, 2009, Congresswoman Barbara Lee chaired the second session of the United Nations Forum on Minority Issues focusing on "Minorities and Effective Political Participation" in Geneva, Switzerland. As Chairperson of the 2009 UN Forum on Minority Issues, Congresswoman Lee led a global discussion of ways to gain greater involvement of minorities in government in countries around the world. The Forum brought together over 400 participants, including government delegations, UN officials and minorities from every region of the globe. The Forum will produce a set of action-oriented recommendations that will be made publicly available and widely circulated.

AVERTING CLIMATE DISASTER

The facts are undeniable— global climate change poses a grave and urgent threat to ours and every nation around the world. On June 26, 2009, Congresswoman Lee voted in favor of comprehensive climate legislation, H.R. 2454, the American Clean Energy and Security Act, which she recognizes as a critical first step toward averting climate disaster and reversing trends of environmental degradation which characterized the last eight years. She continues to work to strengthen the core elements of America’s climate strategy through aggressive emissions reductions targets, a robust renewable energy standard, and increased financial commitment for international adaptation and mitigation programs that will be instrumental in the successful

negotiation of a global response to climate change.

In April 2009, she introduced H.Con.Res. 98, which recognizes the disproportionate impact of climate change on women and affirms the commitment of Congress to support vulnerable populations to prepare for and build their resilience to those impacts. She also helped to champion the cause for allocating an estimated \$860 million to the Green Jobs Act in H.R. 2454.

This year, Congresswoman Lee hosted the inaugural Green Roundtable for African American and Minority Business -owners in Washington, D.C. to build a unified green agenda. In April, Carol Browner, Special Advisor to the President

on Energy and Climate Change, joined Congresswoman Barbara Lee in Oakland, CA. They visited Cypress Mandela Job Training Center to highlight the innovative initiatives within the 9th Congressional District.

In January, she introduced H.R. 330, the Metro Economies Green Act (MEGA), legislation that will establish targeted grant programs to support green economic development, job training and creation in metropolitan communities in order to help meet emerging energy challenges and create new pathways out of poverty for those who need good Green Collar jobs most—urban youth of color, the unemployed, and those among our neighbors who have faced incredible hardships in life.

VIOLENCE PREVENTION AND RE-ENTRY EFFORTS

Congresswoman Lee has continued the fight for criminal justice reform she began as a member of the California State Legislature. She has led efforts to create a comprehensive and bipartisan plan to reform reentry programs, to reinstate the right to vote for ex-offenders and to provide for federal record expungement. She has worked with community organizations and local courts to establish programs to help ex-offenders clear up criminal records and

successfully return to the community.

Congresswoman Lee helped lead efforts to secure \$100 million in funding for the Second Chance Act, a measure aimed at addressing recidivism by strengthening programs to help the reentry of formerly incarcerated individuals. Additionally, she introduced H.R. 3154, the Enhanced Violent Crime Community Policing Act of 2009 (COPS) along with Senator Barbara

Boxer (D-CA). This legislation would make cities like Oakland eligible for hiring grants that could increase police forces from 5 to 10 percent by adding officers to patrol areas affected by violent crime. This year, Congresswoman Lee secured funding for the cities of Emeryville and Oakland, which received \$913,576 and \$19,747,117 respectively through the COPS program to help increase their number of officers.

IMMIGRATION UPDATE

Earlier this year, Congresswoman Lee hosted an Immigration event aimed at addressing ICE raids in the district. Additionally, she continues to fight for a fair and just comprehensive immigration reform package in Congress that embraces family values and includes:

- a process for earned legalization and a clear path to citizenship
- the ability for children to pursue an education
- an easy-to-navigate system for people who want to enter the country legally, especially those with immediate family members here in the country already.

ACADEMY NOMINATIONS

For information of how to apply for an appointment to the United States Military, Naval, Air force or Merchant Marine Academies please visit lee.house.gov.

SECURING ADDITIONAL FUNDING

As a member of the Appropriations Committee, Congresswoman Barbara Lee was able to secure the following funding for the district (partial list).

- \$300,000 – Oakland Police Recruitment Program
- \$250,000 – Covenant House Jumpstart for Programs serving At-Risk Youth
- \$250,000 – East Bay Community Law Center for Community Re-entry & Reintegration

- \$190,000 – Alameda County Office of HIV/AIDS
- \$190,000 – Emeryville Youth Wellness and Parenting Center
- \$190,000 – Cypress Mandela Pre-apprentice Construction Training Program
- \$190,000 – Oakland Unified School District
- \$190,000 – The Unity Council, Fruitvale Cultural and Performing Arts Center



Congresswoman Barbara Lee meets with students from Redwood Day School to discuss education.

- \$475,000 – Ed Roberts Campus Transportation Center
- \$475,000 – Berkeley/Albany Ferry Service
- \$475,000 – Sidewalk construction in Ashland/Cherryland



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Barbara Lee
M.C.
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Please take a moment to visit lee.house.gov. Don't forget to sign up for the E-newsletter – LeeMail, to receive timely updates on upcoming events and more.

COMMUNITY OFFICE HOURS

OAKLAND

Mon - Fri: 9am – 5pm
District Office
1301 Clay St., Ste 1000-N
Oakland

FRUITVALE

Wednesday: 3pm – 5pm
Spanish Speaking Citizens
Foundation
1475 Fruitvale Ave.
Oakland

CASTRO VALLEY

Tuesday: 3pm – 5pm
Castro Valley Library
600 Norbridge Avenue
Castro Valley

We are here to help you with any federally related issue, such as: Social Security, immigration, veteran's benefits, IRS, Medicare, school loans, etc.

ESTABLISHING A NATIONAL AIDS STRATEGY

On November 1st of this year Congresswoman Lee hosted a discussion in the district with the White House Office of National AIDS Policy to provide our community input into the discussions taking place to establish a National AIDS Strategy.

Thanks to the work of Congresswoman Lee, this year the House Appropriations Committee has proposed:

- Almost \$107 million in additional funding to support HIV prevention, testing, and treatment programs;
- Eliminating funding for

discredited and ineffective 'abstinence-only' sex-education programs and replacing them with funding for a new teen pregnancy initiative that includes comprehensive sex education;

- Rolling back the federal funding ban on needle exchange programs—which have been proven to reduce HIV infections without increasing drug use.

Congresswoman Lee led the fight to lift the HIV travel ban and is encouraging the International AIDS Society to strongly consider



Congresswoman Barbara Lee joins President Barack Obama for the signing of the Ryan White HIV/AIDS Treatment Extension Act.

hosting their 2012 International AIDS Conference in the United States. She continues to fight to bring additional resources back to the district, but it will take a concerted community effort to truly address this problem.

DISTRICT HIGHLIGHTS

The following is a partial list of district events hosted by Congresswoman Barbara Lee over the past year.

- Small Minority Business event held in conjunction with Cal State East Bay Oakland Center and Minority Business Advisory Group
- Forum to provide overview of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act Event – Oakland Asian Cultural Center
- EITC - VITA Tax Preparation event designed to help moderately and low-income residents take advantage of the earned income tax credit – Oakland
- Artistic Discovery – 29th Annual High School Congressional Arts Competition – Mario Chiodo Studio
- Recovery Act Event for Faith-based and Non-profit Organizations to help these organizations access ARRA funds – Laney College
- A community town hall discussion on "A National Healthcare Plan" – Evergreen Baptist Church, Oakland
- Attended event for the completion of the \$50 Million Port of Oakland Dredging Project – Oakland
- Roundtable meeting with Secretary of Labor Hilda Solis and community leaders representing labor, business and healthcare – Oakland
- "Veterans to College" Event to review new GI Bill and Veterans Benefits – Berkeley City College, Berkeley

2010 CENSUS

During the last two censuses, the Census Bureau missed counting millions of people –mostly people of color and low-income people. Undercounting certain populations may reduce federal funding for hospitals, education, child care, disaster preparation – as well as fair representation in Congress. It is important, that every person participate in the 2010 Census so that we can ensure fair allocation of resources and political representation. For additional information on the Census please visit the new local Census office at 1814 Franklin Street, 2nd floor, in Oakland or go to www.2010.census.gov.